

**FACTS ABOUT THE “POST-9/11 VETERANS
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT”
(S. 22)**

The bipartisan Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act (S. 22) expands the educational benefits for those who have served since September 11, 2001. S. 22 not only takes into account the substance and intent of the educational benefits received under the original World War II GI Bill, but also the reality of costs associated with college education today. A companion bill, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance (H.R. 2702), has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA).

SIGNIFICANT PROVISIONS OF S.22

- **Under this bill, the full basic educational benefit will allow GIs who have honorably served to have the full cost of tuition covered at any public college or university in their home state of residence.** The cost of tuition would be capped at the most expensive in-state public school, with a monthly stipend tied to the Department of Defense’s geographic rate for housing, plus a small stipend for books. S. 22 would also allow additional payments for tutorial assistance, as well as licensure and certification tests. For veterans who choose to attend a private college or university - or an out-of-state public college or university - this basic benefit might not cover the full costs of tuition.
- **S. 22 will provide an educational enhancement for veterans who complete at least 36 months of active duty service.** Under this concept, the federal government will match - dollar for dollar - any additional financial contributions private and public colleges and universities voluntarily contribute. This new program will be titled “The Yellow Ribbon GI Educational Enhancement Program.” This program would vastly increase the educational choices for veterans, commensurate with the choices that World War II veterans received.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **S. 22 would be available to members of the military who have served on active duty since September 11, 2001, including activated reservists and National Guard.** To be eligible, veterans must have served at least three to thirty-six months of qualified active duty, beginning on or after September 11, 2001. Educational benefits would be paid in amounts linked to the amount of active duty served in the military.

THE NEED FOR S. 22

- **S. 22 provides a GI Bill that reflects the rising costs of college education.** The cost of college education has increased by 278 percent over the past 20 years, but the benefits provided under the current Montgomery GI Bill have not kept pace. S. 22 corrects this deficiency.

- **S. 22 is vitally important if this country is to maintain a strong, all volunteer military.** The GI Bill is essential for not only maintaining healthy recruitment and retention numbers, but is also necessary to ensure that our force is made up of highly qualified and competent personnel.
- **Without question, the GI bill pays for itself in the long run.** The price of this initiative may be of concerned to some people, and rightly so. Under the original GI Bill, every dollar spent on educational benefits added seven dollars to the national economy in terms of productivity, consumer spending, and tax revenue. While this bill will cost more money, it is a cost of war that we cannot refuse to pay.